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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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25X1 SUBJECT Differences Within the SED (Socialist
Unity Party) 25X1

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NO. OF PAGES 1

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1. The Axen (Schirdewan) and Ulbricht groups stand increasingly opposed to one another in the Central Committee of the SED (Socialist Unity Party). The anti-Ulbricht group draws strength especially from officials who were not Central Committee members until recently and consequently still have only limited connections with the general party body.
2. In this connection the following officials are regarded by Ulbricht with the greatest suspicion: Hermann Axen, Edith Baumann, Hans Jendritzki, Erich Honnecker, Erich Mielke, Hans Warnke. Honnecker in particular feels himself under attack by Ulbricht and fears for a purge of the FDJ (Free German Youth). Mielke's position is obscure and not very strong. Warnke appears to be suspected by Ulbricht of stirring up opposition sentiment.
3. Direction of the FDJ meanwhile has been transferred from the SED Central Committee to Karl Schirdewan. In spite of this, the tension between Ulbricht and Schirdewan continues.
4. On his side Ulbricht counts upon the following people, among others: Johannes R. Becher, Otto Buchwitz, Friedrich Ebert, Otto Grotewohl, Ernst Hoffmann, the brothers Bernhard and Wilhelm Koenen, Bruno Leuschner (with whom however there have been repeated differences of opinion on economic questions), Hermann Matern, Erich Mueckenberger, Fred Gelsamer, Heinrich Rau (who also has differed with Ulbricht on economic questions and who stands with Leuschner), Willi Sneegebrecht, Karl Steinhoff, Willi Stoph, Herbert Warnke, Ernst Wollweber, Gerhard Ziller. Fritz Selbmann's position is doubtful. It is not clear which group his sympathies lie with.

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